



Helensburgh Heritage Trust

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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

Hello everyone!

Firstly, a couple of urgent matters

Store. As I have already told you, we unfortunately lost our good store in September. We now have a tiny, totally inadequate store which is costing us several times what our previous store was. If you have any ideas at all of somewhere that we could use, please, please contact me.

The Outdoor Museum in Colquhoun Square.

Argyll & Bute Council has allocated a budget of £55,000 for new artworks at the Outdoor Museum. The maximum grant for any one artwork is £3000, and this grant can represent no more than 50% of the total cost for design, production, installation, etc. Applications have to be made to the Council by Friday 2nd March, and fuller details can be found at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/outdoor-museum-grant-application>

Trustees. Since the last newsletter Marion Gillies has unfortunately decided that for reasons of health she can no longer be a trustee of the Heritage Trust. We of course have to thank her for the years of service which she gave us. We already had 2 vacancies on the board, one of which had been brought about by the death of Jenny Sanders. Consequently we have co-opted 3 new trustees to the board; they are Geoff and Trudi Tompson, and Robert Ryan. Geoff and Trudi organised the unveiling ceremony for the RAF Helensburgh memorial in the summer, and Robert has set up the very good Helensburgh Memories website on Facebook; if you have not seen it, have a look at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helensburghmemories/>

Winter programme 2017-18.

Wednesday 31st January – Mike Thornley: The Glenarn Garden

Wednesday 28th February – Bruce and Nicola Jamieson: Developing the Mackintosh Club

****NEW**** Wednesday 21st March – Fiona Baker: Loch Lomond's Ellan Vhow and its Castle (this is a joint meeting with the North Clyde Archaeological Society)

Wednesday 28th March – Richard Reeve: A Brief history of the Rosneath Peninsula

PLEASE NOTE IN PARTICULAR THE EXTRA MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH. All these meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre on East Clyde Street.

Winter programme 2018-19. We are already starting to plan for this so, if you know of any interesting speakers or have any other ideas, please let David Clark know.

Display cabinet in the Civic Centre link corridor.

On display is the magnificent collection of silverware presented to George Maclachlan when he had completed 60 years of service as town clerk of Helensburgh. A copy of his portrait is also in the cabinet.

This display cabinet also contains the official robes worn by the Provosts of Helensburgh. It is hoped the the "ticket" presented to Alastair H Paterson in 1968 when he became the only person ever to receive the Freedom of the Burgh will also be on display shortly.

Other displays in the Civic Centre. The cabinet nearest to the Marriage Room has displays on Deborah Kerr, Jack Buchanan, and a collection of bottles. The cabinet nearest the entrance has a miscellany of items on the top shelf, including our Boer War clock. On the middle shelf is a display about Bonar Law, with Helensburgh's coats of arms on the bottom shelf. The other two cabinets have displays about Charles Rennie Mackintosh, but it is intended to replace these in the next few months - so go now if you haven't already seen these! There will then be a display about the Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society, one of the oldest local organisations.

Our Provost's lamp is located between two of the cabinets.

Permanent displays in the Library. Our fine model of the Comet is now on display at the entrance to the Library, along with various items relating to the vessel and its owner Henry Bell.

The former Heritage Centre upstairs in the library has now become the John Logie Baird Room. It contains the "Unknown John Logie Baird" display, the original televisor which belongs to the Library, the Heritage Trust's working replica TV kit, and a copy of the recently purchased letter signed by John Logie Baird. Some work still remains to be carried out in this room.

Displays on the Balcony of the Library. René Taverne was a French Second World War hero who came to live in Helensburgh following the war. After his death his collection of medals (which includes the Légion d' honneur) was given to Helensburgh Heritage Trust. It is appropriate that we are marking the 75th anniversary of some of his exploits with a display in one of the cabinets.

The subjects in other cabinets on the balcony include china with the Helensburgh coat of arms, Jack Buchanan, Deborah Kerr, some of the Anderson (Local Collection) Trust paintings, and some bottles and jars.